However, formal orders for implementation of this scheme have not been issued so far in view of the interim stay given by Kerala High Court.

Free Telephones Connections to the Employees of Telecom Department

180. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have finally decided to give free telephone connection to all the employees in the Telecommunications Department all over the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the guidelines framed for this propose, estimated number of connections falling under this category and estimated cost to be incurred by the Government on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, Government has decided to extend certain concessions to the serving employees of DoT/DTS in obtaining a private telephone by them. No order has been issued so far as an interim stay has been granted by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

(b) It is proposed to exempt the serving employees from payment of registration charges, installation charges and bi-monthly rental. The employees will be required to pay applicable call charges on the calls made by them over and above, the free calls permissible to any normal telephone subscriber. About three lakh employees are entitled to receive the proposed concessions. Estimated financial implications involved are as under:

i. Non-Recurring: Rs. 24.0 crore

ii. Recurring: Between Rs. 78.3 crore (for Low Calling) to Rs. 99.9 crore (for High Calling) per anum. Most of the employees are likely to fall under low calling subscriber category. As such, the implications are likely to be to the extent of Rs. 78.3 crore.